

DECLASSIFIED

31 Dec. 1981

To: RSD

Fm: WRB

Subject: Current Status of the John Sullivan Investigation

I spoke with George Lannon about the present status of the John Sullivan disappearance. His comments can be summarized as follows:

I. Investigation

The investigation of this case has fallen principally upon the Policia Nacional, with occasional involvement by Policia de Hacienda. Most of the physical investigation took place during the months of January and February, 1981 (the first two months after Sullivan's disappearance). The PN continue to follow leads when they arise. For example, the PN conducted a grave search in September on the basis of a tip. So far, the case has resulted in no substantial clues whatsoever.

II. Embassy Attitude

The Embassy is basically satisfied that the PN and PH are conducting a serious investigation given their limited capabilities and the political situation in which they are operating. We have had access, cooperation, and support from the highest levels of the security forces and the GOES. George Lannon deals regularly with PN Director General Lopez Nuila and PH Director General Moran on the case. The Ambassador has raised the case with President Duarte. The cooperation by the GOES and security force officials has been good. As an example, the GOES paid all costs of the grave exhumation and autopsies performed in September in an effort to identify the body of John Sullivan. When the Embassy has provided clues, the PN followed them up. When they developed their own clues, they followed them up. The problem with this case is that there are very few clues.

III. Appendix

The consular section is working on an appendix that will list and summarize all of the steps taken in the investigation of the Sullivan case during the past year.

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John Sullivan

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